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-BY-SEA

Urban District of
PORTSLADE-BY-SEA

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REPORT


of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1949

by

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also M.O.H. of
Hove.

SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.Mun.E.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1949, together with copies of special reports presented to the Hove and Portslade Divisional Executive and the Hove and Portslade Health Sub-Committee dealing with their respective Medical and Health Services.

The absence of influenza in the earlier part of the year, the phenomenal amount of sunshine during the summer months and the absence of severe weather before Christmas all combined to lessen the amount of general illness and restrict the advent of serious respiratory infections especially amongst the aged. The incidence of infectious disease was light not only in amount but in severity. Scarlet Fever cases were slightly in excess of 1948 but the Measles outbreak of that year tailed off in the following spring. The number of cases fell from 221 to 87 with no removals to hospital and no deaths—a state of affairs due probably in part to the very small involvement—4 only—in babies of under one year. If only Measles can be postponed until the third year of life it loses much of its terrors. There was only one case of Diphtheria, in a girl of 17 years who made a good recovery. Although in many parts of the country Anterior Poliomyelitis was only less prevalent than during the big epidemic of 1947, Portslade was fortunate in escaping without any cases.

The table giving details of Diphtheria Immunisation shows that approximately 42 per cent. of children between the ages of 1—5 and 60 per cent. between 5—15 have been immunised.

The position with regard to Infant Vaccination is not nearly so satisfactory and in 1949 only 30 per cent. of babies in Portslade were vaccinated during the first year of life. There is no question that the removal of the element of compulsion has for the moment led to a deterioration in the acceptance of infant vaccination throughout the country, which can only be remedied by a vigorous campaign of propaganda as was the case in the very early days of Diphtheria Immunisation, or a major outbreak of Smallpox.

The Birth and Death Rates returned to their pre-war average of 17 and 11 respectively, but the Infant Mortality Rate with only 4 deaths reached a new low level of 17.62.

There was a slight reduction in the new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis from 11 to 7, but it is again disturbing to note that two of these were in children under the age of 15—three others in the age group 15—25.

During the year there was a further effort to reduce the housing shortage and 66 new Council houses were built and 66 families re-housed. It is unfortunate that so often the urgency from the health point of view does not correspond with the family's position on the waiting list or its suitability as tenant.

In the county districts there has been over a number of years a gradual removal of the control of Health and Welfare Services so that the Medical Officer of Health is left mainly to deal with Infectious Diseases and Sanitary Administration, much of the detail of which falls on the shoulders of the Sanitary Inspector, and I should like to express my appreciation of the assistance and support Mr. Donald always gives me in that direction.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : 13,490.

BIRTHS :		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	120	94	214
Illegitimate	..	9	4	13

Birth Rate : 16.82.

STILL BIRTHS :

1. Rate per 1,000 Births : 4.4.

DEATHS :

Male .. 62
 Female .. 85 Total : 147.

Death Rate : 10.89.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-
 birth : 1.

Death of infants under 1 year of age : 4.

Rate per 1,000 births : 17.62.

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages) ..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	..	Nil
Pneumonia ..	..	3
Cancer (all forms) ..	..	31

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :

There are 9 houses served by cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act.

In addition there are 4 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

During the year 5 houses with pail closets were converted to water closets. An existing cesspool was filled in and a new cesspool built.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects ..	513
Number of inspections made for the purpose	658
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	146
Number of inspections made for that purpose	291
Number of complaints received	185
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act) ..	185
Statutory Notices served	10
Houses found dirty or verminous ..	26
Houses with insufficient refuse bin ..	50

Defective Drains	..	..	..	129
Defective Closets	..	..	..	42
Defective Sinks	..	..	..	11
Defective Roofs and Gutters	..	..	..	66
Defective Paving of Yards	..	..	..	20
Damp and Defective Walls and Ceilings	..	..	..	251
Defective Floors	..	..	..	47
Defects to Windows, Doors, Grates, etc.	..	..	..	271

RATS AND MICE (Destruction Act, 1919).

The campaign in the eradication of Rats and Mice has been continued, and a treatment of all the sewers in the district has been successfully completed. Although the tests showed infestation in the sewers, none were heavy and the treatment carried out was successful.

The Rodent Operator dealt with 115 infestations on surface properties, and paid 560 visits for that purpose. This is an increase on the number of infestations dealt with last year, and this was probably due to the free service now provided which undoubtedly has resulted in the public reporting infestation without the fear of having to pay for the treatment carried out.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 26 houses were found to be infested with vermin, and were disinfested as follows :
- (2) By removing and easing all woodwork, architraves, skirting-boards, etc., and spraying with insecticides, and in some cases by the use of gaseous fumigants.

This work has been carried out by the Council, and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	513
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	658
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	513

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	86
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*A. *Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
(a)	By Owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	97
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	11
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

C. *Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	—
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	—

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	15	1	<i>Nil</i>
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	24	1	<i>Nil</i>
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) .. .	5	6	2	—
TOTAL .. .	75	45	4	<i>Nil</i>

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found					No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) insufficient ..	2	2	—	1	—	
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	1	—	
(c) not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	1	—	
TOTAL ..	4	4	—	3	—	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. There is only 1 Farm in the district from which milk is supplied.

There is 1 Dairy in the district, 1 Cowkeeper, 12 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 6 Retailers and Dairy-men who deliver milk in this district.

ICE CREAM. There are 3 premises registered for manufacture of Ice Cream, and 34 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

175lbs. of beef, 120lbs. of fish, 27 cans of corned beef, 390 cans of food, 134lbs. of sago, 154 packets of baking and cake powders, 40lbs. of chicken, 56lbs. of beef dripping, 38 grape fruits, $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of bacon, 7lbs. of flour.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality, 1949.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	4	3	—	2	3	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1949.

DISEASE.	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25—34	35—44	45—64	65 Over	Age Un- known	R'moved Hospital	D'ths.
Scarlet Fever ..	38		2	4	27	2	2	1					11	
Whooping Cough ..	18		5	2	10			1						
Measles ..	87	4	19	22	38	1	1	1				1		
Diphtheria ..	1						1							
Pneumonia ..	23		1	1	3		1	2	4	7	3	1		3
Erysipelas ..	6							1		4		1		
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1								1					
Malaria ..	1				1								1	
Total	175	4	27	29	79	3	5	6	5	11	3	3		3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to
31st. December, 1949.

(i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1935).

Age at 31-12-49, <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5 to 9 1940-1944	10 to 14 1935-1939	Total under 15	
Number Immunised	4	111	151	139	80	785	376	1646	
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1949	Children under 5. 1145						Children 5-14 1971		3116

The number of children immunized during the year was 280.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified during the year.

